

iana. Both were employed at Kentucky State University before ac-

rietas said.

Board Treasurer Mark Overstreet said Snider was a faithful

written. He also served as chairman of the parking committee for the new library building, "and

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# UK will spend \$35 million to keep students around

LEXINGTON, Ky. (AP) – Business is booming at the University of Kentucky. Over 20 major construction projects are in progress, almost all designed to help students get the most out of their tuition money.

Now, the school wants to make sure enough students stick around to enjoy the new digs.

UK will spend \$35 million next year aimed at lowering drop out rates while helping more students graduate. UK Provost Kumble Subbaswamy calls the initiative a "war on student attrition."

The school's plan includes and early warning system that better equip the school to monitor struggling students and give them avenues for help.

The system will be able to keep up with students whose grades lag and determine whether the cause for the student's academic struggles are financial, psycho-

logical or academic.

The \$35 million project is just a small portion of the school's \$2 billion budget for 2007-08, but a vital one if the school wants to become a Top 20 public research university, Subbaswamy said.

About 80 percent of freshmen return to UK for their sophomore year, but only 59 percent graduate within six years after enrolling at the school, Subbaswamy said. Though the graduation rate is the highest of any public university in the state, it's well short of the number found among Top 20 universities. Six-year graduation rates at Clemson, a Top 20 school, is 75 percent Subbaswamy said.

"If we just ram (students) in and don't graduate them, we'll never reach that goal," said president Lee Todd.

The plan will find its way into every portion of a student's life, from admissions to academic

affairs to housing to student affairs.

Some of the \$35 million will go to hire 47 more professors so UK can reduce its student-to-teacher ratio to 17-to-1. More than \$6 million will go to helping financial aid so students and adjust to tuition increases and help students at two-year community colleges and technical colleges transfer to UK.

Faculty and staff will receive at 3.5 percent merit raise and Subbaswamy will have \$847,000 for what he called a "fighting fund" to help keep and attract outstanding faculty members.

The school's board of trustees approved a \$142,500 bonus for Todd, bringing his compensation to \$486,510 for the fiscal year ending June 30. Todd received a score of 95 out of 100 in a performance review from the trustees.